REMARKS

The Official Action of July 16, 2003, and the prior art relied upon therein have been carefully reviewed. The claims in the application are now claims 1 and 3-8, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under §119 is noted.

Claim 1 has been rejected under §102 as anticipated by Inui et al USP 5,081,455 (Inui). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has not been rejected as anticipated by Inui, and the subject matter of claim 2 has now been incorporated into claim 1, whereby claim 1 now corresponds to original claim 2.

Because claim 2 has not been rejected as anticipated by Inui, the applicants need not further address the rejection based on §102 at this time.

Claims 2-8 have been rejected as obvious from Inui in view of Inoue et al USP 6,373,425 (Inoue). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, corresponding to previous claim 2, calls for "An electromagnetic wave absorber comprising a wave-absorbing body and a base plate supporting the bottom of said wave-absorbing body, wherein said wave-absorbing body is formed in a pyramid shape by fitting polygonal wave-absorbing plates into each other, wherein said wave-absorbing body is formed by fitting a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch at an upper portion and a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in a lower portion into each other through said notches in a crossing manner."

Thus, a major structural distinguishing feature of the claimed invention resides in the wave-absorbing body being formed by fitting a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in an upper portion and a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in a lower portion into each other through the notches **in a crossing manner** (emphasis added), whereby the wave-absorbing body having a pyramid shape, ideal for changing the apparent density to match impedance to the incident electromagnetic waves, can be easily formed by combining only two wave-absorbing plates, an advantage of the present invention.

Thus, according to the present invention, the parts composing the absorber can be reduced without deterioration of the electromagnetic wave-absorbing properties to remarkably

reduce production costs, a functional advantage. Additionally, the electromagnetic wave absorber of the present invention can be easily applied even when its height is more than 1 m because most of the parts composing the absorber are lightweight plates, resulting in reducing construction costs (see page 7, lines 15-18 and Fig. 2(a), page 10, line 15 to page 11, line 10 (Example 1), and page 12, lines 2-15 of the specification).

In contrast to the above invention recited in amended claim 1 of the present application, Inui discloses an electromagnetic wave absorber fabricated on a metal plate 81 and comprising a plurality of pyramid-shape members 82 each having a hollow space therein, and mixtures 83 or cottony non-woven fabrics filing the hollow spaces formed in the pyramid-shape members, respectively (see column 13, lines 29-35 and Fig. 30). Linui is silent regarding such a pyramid shaped wave-absorbing body that is formed by fitting a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in an upper portion and a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in a lower portion into each other through the notches in a crossing manner.

Therefore, those skilled in the art referring to Inui would not by motivated to reach the invention recited in

the amended claim 1, and, accordingly, the amended claim 1 of the present application is not obvious from Inui.

Inoue '425 has been cited for the purpose of its disclosure of the bottom surface of the base plate of an electromagnetic absorber having ferrite tiles, and providing a wave absorber composed of mainly inorganic anti-flammable material, like ferrite. The rejection states that it would have been obvious to modify Inui to provide the features of Inoue. However, even if this were accepted by applicants, it is not seen that either reference (or of course their combination) provides the features of original claim 2 which have now been incorporated into claim 1.

Inoue discloses a composite electromagnetic wave absorber capable of restricting the height of a pyramidal electromagnetic wave absorber and being applied to a compact anechoic chamber, wherein an upper absorber (3) is fabricated by dispersing ferrite powder in a general-purpose resin having a permittivity of not higher than 4.9 (see Abstract and Fig. 3), but it does not show or suggest an electromagnetic wave absorber comprising a wave-absorbing body and a base plate supporting the bottom thereof, wherein the wave-absorbing body is formed in a pyramid shape by fitting a plurality of wave-absorbing plates, each having a shape of a polygon such as a triangle and a trapezium, into each other as recited in the

present application (see page 5, lines 12-16 of the specification).

As mentioned above, neither Inui nor Inoue, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the wave-absorbing body formed by fitting a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in an upper portion and a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in a lower portion into each other through the notches in a crossing manner, which is fundamental to the claims of the present application, so that the parts composing the absorber can be reduced without deterioration of the electromagnetic wave-absorbing properties to remarkably reduce production costs. Additionally, the electromagnetic wave absorber of the present invention can be easily applied even when its height is more than 1 m because most of the parts composing the absorber are lightweight plates, resulting in reducing construction costs (see page 7, lines 15-18 and Fig. 2(a), page 10, line 15 to page 11, line 10 (Example 1), and page 12, lines 2-15 of the specification).

Therefore, claims 1 and 3-8 would not have been obvious from Inui, even if it were combined with Inoue.

Claims 6 of the present application recites "The electromagnetic wave absorber according to claim 1, wherein said wave-absorbing plate is in a shape of a triangle, a trapezium or a tapered polygon.

Also, claim 7 of the present application calls for that "The electromagnetic wave absorber according to claim 1, wherein said wave-absorbing plate is composed if a couple of non-combustible boards mainly made of an inorganic material and an electrically conductive layer sandwiched therebetween."

As is clear from the foregoing, Inui does not show or suggest the wave-absorbing body formed by fitting a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in an upper portion and a polygonal wave-absorbing plate having a notch in a lower portion into each other through the notches in a crossing manner, which is an important feature of the present invention, and, accordingly, the claimed invention recited in the amended claim 1 of the present application would not have been obvious from Inui, even if obviously modified by Inoue.

To briefly summarize, by the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1, it results that the combination of Inui and Inoue, even if obvious, would not reach the subject matter of claim 1, and therefore claims 1 and 3-8, the latter of which depend from and fully incorporate the subject matter of claim 1, would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made from a consideration of the two citations together. In at least some cases, the additional subject matter added in the dependent

portions of claims 3-8 further adds to the patentability of these claims.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection based on §103.

The prior art documents made of record and not applied have been noted, along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their application against any of applicants' claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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